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## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY HOSPITAL DIVERSION POLICY

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### AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 6, Section 1798.101a (1), 1798.102, and 1798.170: The local EMS agency may develop triage and transfer protocols to facilitate prompt delivery of patients to appropriate designated facilities within and without its area of jurisdiction.

### PURPOSE

ICEMA recognizes that emergency departments may not, at times, be able to accept patients and therefore adopts the following policy to provide structure to the diversion process to minimize adverse effects on patient care and the EMS system.

### OBJECTIVES

- To assure transportation of 9-1-1 EMS patients to the closest most appropriate hospital.
- To provide a mechanism for a receiving hospital to request diversion
- To assure that EMS ambulances are not unreasonably removed from their areas of primary response.

### POLICY

Diversion is a medical decision dependent upon the ability to provide safe and efficient patient care. Final authority relating to destination of a 9-1-1 ambulance rests with the Base Hospital physician.

This policy shall be utilized by receiving hospitals to request diversion of 9-1-1 ambulances when the hospital is temporarily not equipped and/or prepared to care for additional ambulance patients. A hospital's request to divert shall be made by the attending emergency department physician in consultation with the hospital administrative officer.

Hospitals shall maintain a current diversion policy consistent with ICEMA policy on file with and approved by ICEMA. ICEMA may perform unannounced site visits to hospitals on diversion status to ensure compliance with this policy.

### EXCEPTIONS

Diversion requests will be honored, based upon available system resources, with the following exceptions:

1. A patient(s) in an ambulance on hospital property cannot be diverted.
2. Basic Life Support (BLS) units may not be diverted.
3. Patients exhibiting unmanageable problems, e.g. unmanageable airway, uncontrolled hemorrhage, cardio pulmonary arrest, in the field shall be transported to the closest appropriate hospital regardless of diversion status.
4. There is no ED diversion in the geographical areas serviced by Barstow Community Hospital, Bear Valley Community Hospital, Colorado River Medical Center, Hi- Desert Medical Center and Mountains Community Hospital.
5. If the three (3) most accessible hospitals within an incident location are on diversion, a diversion request will not be honored. The patient(s) must be transported to one of the three closest appropriate/requested receiving hospital regardless of diversion status.
6. In San Bernardino County, patients meeting Trauma Triage Criteria (Protocol Reference #8010 (Adult) and #8012 (Pediatric) shall only be diverted to another Trauma Center. In areas greater than thirty (30) minutes from a Trauma Center, contact a Trauma Base Hospital or assigned Base Hospital, if unable to access a

